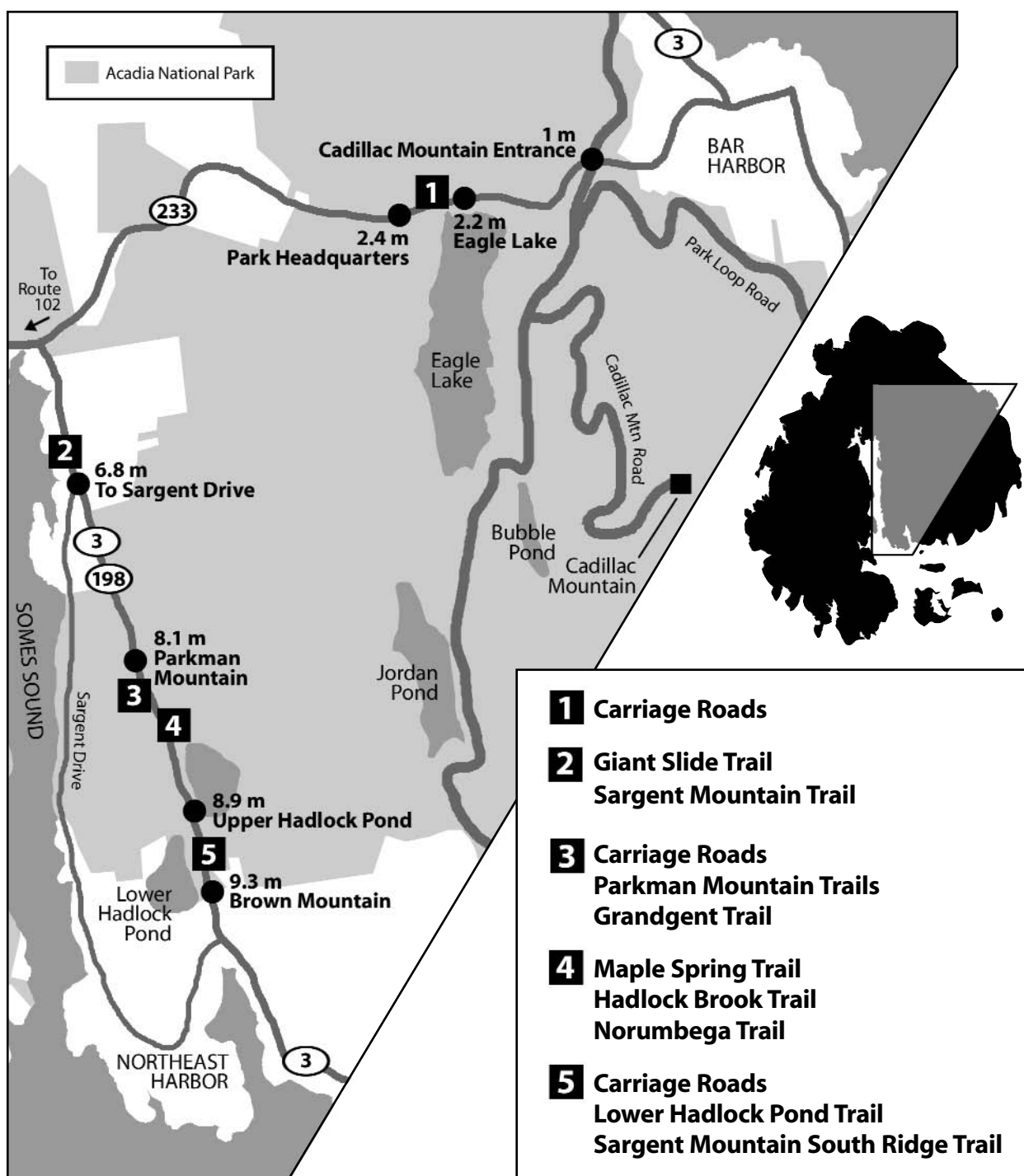


SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

Chapter Eleven Other Park Areas on Mount Desert Island (State Route 233 and State Route 198)





What to Know – Before You Go Other Park Areas on Mount Desert Island (State Route 233 to State Route 198 and Sargent Drive) Logistics

LOCATION

State Route 198 runs along the western side of the eastern half of Mount Desert Island and State Route 233 crosses the middle of the island's eastern half. Sargent Drive hugs the eastern shore of Somes Sound and is accessed from State Route 198. Numerous park trails, carriage roads, lakes, and ponds are accessed from these routes.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Eagle Lake

Carriage road and boat ramp access.

Sargent Drive and Somes Sound

Scenic road hugging Somes Sound, the only fjord on the east coast of the United States.

Hiking Trails

Trails to reach the summits of Sargent, Norembega, and Parkman Mountains, and around the Hadlock Ponds.

Carriage Roads

Eagle Lake, Aunt Betty Pond, Witch Hole Pond, Around Mountain, Hadlock Pond, and Amphitheatre carriage road loops are on this side of the park.

Brown Mountain Gate Lodge

One of the gate lodges of the carriage road system, the parking area just to the north of the gate lodge provides access to carriage roads.

TIME ALLOTMENT

- *Driving time from Bar Harbor to Northeast Harbor via State Route 233/ State Route 198: 20 minutes*
- *Driving time—Sargent Drive: 15 minutes*
- *Other sites: varies depending on interest and activities*

PARKING

Varies according to site. See descriptions in Background Information/Narrative section.

FACILITIES

- Restrooms at Acadia National Park Headquarters
- Vault toilets at Eagle Lake Parking, Parkman Mountain Parking, and Brown Mountain Parking
- Gas stations, groceries, restaurants in Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor

ACCESSIBILITY

- Carriage roads
- Park Headquarters

SAFETY

- Obey posted speed limits on the state routes.
- On most summer and busy autumn days the shoulders of State Route 233 at Eagle Lake become crowded with parked cars. Please slow down and watch for pedestrians.

TRAILHEADS AND TRAILHEAD CONNECTIONS

From State Route 198

- *Giant Slide Trail*
- *Sargent Mountain North Ridge Trail*

From Parkman Mountain Parking Lot - off State Route 198

- *Parkman Mountain, Bald Peak, and Gilmore Peak Trails*
- *Grandgent Trail*

From Norumbega Parking Pull-Off - State Route 198

- *Maple Spring Trail*
- *Hadlock Brook Trail*
- *Norumbega Mountain Trail*

From Brown Mountain Parking Lot - off of State Route 198

- *Lower Hadlock Pond Trail*
- *Sargent Mountain South Ridge Trail*



At A Glance

Other Park Areas on Mount Desert Island (State Route 233 to State Route 198 and Sargeant Drive)

SIGNIFICANCE

This area of the park is not clearly defined with a specific entrance, illustrating the intertwining of park lands with private lands. There are numerous carriage roads to enjoy in this part of Acadia, and Sargent Drive gives visitors an exceptional view of Somes Sound, the only fjord along the east coast of the United States.

FAST FACTS

- Eagle Lake is 436 acres in size and 110 feet deep at its deepest point. It was named by visiting artists in the mid 1800s for eagles flying overhead.
- Somes Sound is a fjord, a glacial valley drowned by the sea. It is indicated by steep rocky sides that drop straight into the ocean and greater depth at its end than at its mouth.
- The rounded mountain to the north of Upper Hadlock Pond is Bald Peak.
- Brown Mountain Gate Lodge was built in 1932. Its purpose was the same as the gate lodge at Jordan Pond—to assure that cars would not drive on the carriage roads. It is a private residence today.

PROTECT YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP

Remember to follow *Leave No Trace* principles. In particular:

- Respect private property if hiking on trails that also cross private lands.
- Use carriage road etiquette as outlined in the biking chapter in the Recreation section.

HELPFUL INFORMATION – PARK SITES ON STATE ROUTE 233/STATE ROUTE 198

Fact Sheets:

Geology 3-66

Park History 3-105

Carriage Roads of Acadia National Park 3-108

Acadia's Historic Trails 3-111

Appendix:

Lakes and Ponds (D)



Background Information/Narrative Other Park Areas on Mount Desert Island (Route 233 to Route 198 and Sargent Drive)

NOTE: Distances are from the intersection of State Route 233 and State Route 3 in Bar Harbor.

CADILLAC MOUNTAIN ENTRANCE TO PARK LOOP ROAD

Location

Mile 1 Cadillac Mountain entrance is one of four main entrances to the Park Loop Road. After turning into the entrance, access for Sieur de Monts Spring, Sand Beach, Cadillac Mountain, and Jordan Pond is to the left. To the right is access for the visitor center.

EAGLE LAKE

Passengers remain on bus; lake can be seen from bus.

Location

Mile 2.1 on State Route 233.

Parking

Mile 2.1 on left; Boat ramp parking (10 spaces); *Mile 2.2* on right; carriage road parking for 18 cars.

NOTE: Many people parallel park on either side of State Route 233. If doing so, please remain aware that State Route 233 is a very busy highway.

Eagle Lake's serene waters are framed by Cadillac Mountain to the east, Pemetic Mountain and the Bubbles to the south, and Sargent Mountain to the west. A six-mile carriage road circles Eagle Lake and connects with spurs to Bubble Pond, Jordan Pond, Witch Hole Pond, and around Sargent Mountain. Eagle Lake is 436 acres and is occasionally stocked with togue, landlocked salmon, and brook trout by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

PARK HEADQUARTERS

Location

Mile 2.7 on left

Parking

A small lot for approximately 10 visitor vehicles.

During the months of November through mid-April, park headquarters operates as the winter visitor center when the Hulls Cove Visitor Center is closed. There is a small book sales area. Not appropriate for tour bus groups. At mile 5.6, Route 233 terminates at State Route 198/State Route 3. To the right the road leads to Somesville and route connections to the west side (Southwest Harbor, Bass Harbor) or off the island.

SARGEANT DRIVE

No buses, recreational vehicles, or commercial vehicles.

Location

Mile 6.8 to the right on State Route 198. Also accessed from Mile 10.5 in Northeast Harbor.

The 3.8-mile-long Sargeant Drive hugs the rocks of Somes Sound, the only fjord along the eastern seaboard. A fjord is geologically defined as a glacially carved river valley drowned by the sea. Characteristics include a southern shallow mouth, a northern deep end, and a shoreline that drops straight into the water rather than slopes.

Across the sound from north to south is:

- *Hall Quarry*: a small community at the base of Acadia Mountain. Area used extensively in the late 1800s and early 1900s for quarrying pink granite.
- *Acadia Mountain*: its east-west trending ridge contrasts with all other mountain ridges on the island that run north-south, typical of glacial carving.
- *Man O'War Brook*: flowing into Somes Sound from Acadia Mountain's base, the brook was named for the French and English warships in the 1700s that would take water on board from the stream.
- *St. Sauveur Mountain*: once called Dog Mountain, it was re-named in honor of the Jesuit colony in 1613, believed to have been established at Fernald Point.
- *Valley Cove*: a small cove with St. Sauveur mountain's steep cliff rising above it, this is a nesting spot of peregrine falcons.
- *Flying Mountain*: a small mountain at the mouth of Somes Sound. Legends claim that it is the top of Acadia Mountain that flew away.
- *Fernald Point*: at the southern base of Flying Mountain, it is the site of archaeological digs unearthing the history of ancient Indians.

PARKMAN MOUNTAIN

Location

Mile 8.1 on State Route 198

Parking

Spaces for 10 vehicles; no bus parking.

Offers access to carriage roads that circle both Hadlock Pond and Sargent Mountain.

NORUMBEGA MOUNTAIN / UPPER HADLOCK POND

Location

Norumbega *mile 8.4* and Upper Hadlock Pond *mile 8.9* on the left of State Route 198.

Parking

Norumbega—paved pull-off on west side of State Route 198; Upper Hadlock—small dirt pull-off at pond's southern end.

Area trails (see page 2-88) are accessed from Norumbega Mountain parking. Upper Hadlock Pond lies to the east of Norumbega Mountain and south of Bald Peak's rounded dome.

BROWN MOUNTAIN

Location

Mile 9.3 on State Route 198

Parking

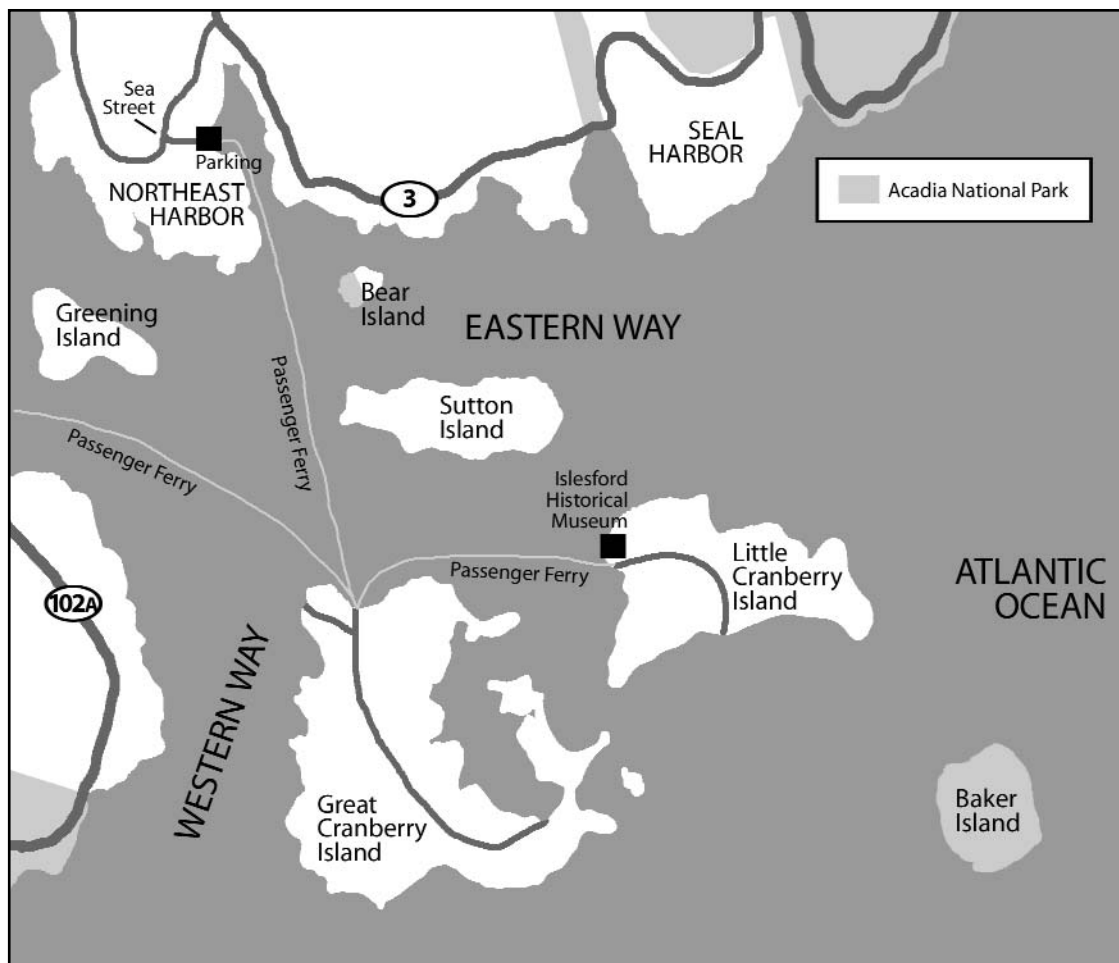
The paved lot has spaces for approximately 25 vehicles.

The parking area is primarily for carriage road access and Sargent Mountain's southern trails. The Brown Mountain Gate Lodge can be seen off of State Route 198. Like the Jordan Pond Gate Lodge built in 1932, Brown Mountain accents the carriage roads while keeping automobiles out. Architect Grosvenor Atterbury's design is an excellent example of French Romanesque Revival architecture styles.

At mile 10, State Route 198 enters Northeast Harbor. A left hand turn from State Route 198/State Route 3 on to State Route 3 leads toward Seal Harbor and eventually back to Bar Harbor.

SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

Chapter Twelve – Islesford Historical Museum





Before You Go – What to Know Islesford Historical Museum

LOCATION

The Islesford Historical Museum is located in Islesford, a waterfront community on Little Cranberry Island.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

The Islesford Historical Museum

Administered by the National Park Service as part of Acadia National Park, the museum may be visited daily from mid-June to late September. Commercial passenger ferries (mailboat) and tour boats provide regular service from Mount Desert Island. Museum hours vary according to the mailboat schedule. Admission is free.

Little Cranberry Island

An enjoyable walk along Little Cranberry's roads gives visitors a chance to see what life is like on an island today.

TIME ALLOTMENT

Plan for a day outing to visit Little Cranberry Island. On a calm day, the two-and-one-half-mile boat trip from Mount Desert Island to Little Cranberry Island takes approximately 20 minutes. Depending on the season, the mailboat may run between three to six times a day.

- *Islesford Historical Musuem: 45 minutes*

PARKING

Parking for the mailboat is at the marina in Northeast Harbor. Access is from either State Route 3 (south) or State Route 198 (south) into Northeast Harbor. Turn left on Sea Street which ends at the parking lot. The lot is extremely crowded and often full on most summer days.

FACILITIES

There are seasonal public restrooms at the marina in Northeast Harbor and at the Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry Island.

ACCESSIBILITY

- The mailboat is accessible. However, it should be noted that at low tide the ramp to the mailboat is extremely steep. At high tide the ramp slope is much gentler.
- The Islesford Historical Museum is not accessible.

SAFETY

Watch footing while on the ramp to the mailboat. Obey signs indicating how many people should be on the ramp at one time.



At A Glance – The Islesford Historical Museum

SIGNIFICANCE

The Islesford Historical Museum collection preserves both documents and artifacts that pay tribute to generations of independent and self-sustaining Americans. On permanent exhibit in every corner of the museum are items—many of them everyday tools of their time—that tell stories about island life: sextant and octants, harpoon gun and ship clocks, ledgers and weights from a ship's store, and the tools of the islandbound tradesmen.

FAST FACTS

- Professor William Sawtelle, a professor from Haverford College in Pennsylvania summered on Little Cranberry Island in the early 1900s. His strong interest in the local maritime history of the Cranberry Islands led to his collection of memorabilia and artifacts. That collection became the Islesford Historical Museum, originally housed in the Blue Duck.
- In 1948, the museum and the Blue Duck became part of Acadia National Park.

PROTECT YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP

In addition to following *Leave No Trace* principles, in particular:

- There is no food or drink in the museum.
- Please respect items in the museum and leave museum displays untouched.
- Follow all museum requests.

HELPFUL INFORMATION – ISLESFORD HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Fact Sheets:

Seabirds 3-32

Park History 3-105

Portrait of Three 19th Century Families – The Carrolls, Hadlocks, and Gilleys 3-114



Background Information/Narrative

Islesford Historical Museum/Island Life in the 1800s

As the boat winds through the fishing boats in the protected harbor and approaches the dock, two buildings command the eye's attention. The Blue Duck Ships' Store is a one-and-one-half story, gabled, wooden structure standing where the island meets the harbor. Directly behind the Blue Duck is the Islesford Historical Museum, a one-and-one-half story brick Georgian Revival building. These two buildings, part of Acadia National Park, preserve the memory of those who lived on the Cranberry Isles and those whose lives were tied to the rhythms of the sea.

Off the jagged, rocky coast of Maine lie approximately 5,000 islands ranging in size from ledge outcroppings to the 80,000 acre Mount Desert Island. During the mid 18th century many of these islands began to be inhabited by European settlers eager to take advantage of this interface between land and sea.

Despite hardships, at the time of early settlement in the 18th century, the islands off the coast of Maine were more coveted than the mainland. Islands were easier to hold against attack and they provided their own boundary for keeping livestock—fencing was seldom needed. Island living was also convenient for the many people who made their living by the sea.

Edwin Hadlock, a local entrepreneur who lived on Little Cranberry Island, built the structure known today as the Blue Duck about 1850. He and his sons Gilbert and William used it as a ships' store for at least 25 years. The Blue Duck is an unadorned wood frame structure that represents a simple building style common to maritime villages in the 19th century. After 1875, it operated as a general store. About 1918, Doctor William Otis Sawtelle, a college professor, purchased the building. Sawtelle gave the store its current name, the Blue Duck, after discovering many duck decoys stored there. He painted the decoys Prussian blue and scattered them around the property.

As a summer resident, Doctor Sawtelle became interested in the history of maritime New England, especially Little Cranberry Island, and formed the Islesford Historical Society. By 1919, the Blue Duck was used to exhibit various historical objects and memorabilia collected by the Society. It soon became apparent that the ever expanding and valuable collection required a permanent home. By 1927, under Sawtelle's leadership, friends of the Society contributed sufficient funds to erect a slate roofed brick and granite building—the Islesford Historical Museum.

The people whose stories are told in the Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry Island, are the ones whose lives were part of a growing nation. The occupations represented in the museum are typical of those of the day: schoolteacher, midwife, cooper, captain, homemaker, merchant, postmaster.

SOME ISLAND PEOPLE PORTRAITS

Enoch Spurling (1789-1839) was a prominent mariner and merchant from Great Cranberry Island. While on trips, he sent letters back to his wife Hannah and their children. He worked to separate the Cranberry Isles from Mount Desert Island to make them an independent town. He held several different jobs for the town: selectman, assessor, and town clerk.

Hannah Newman Spurling, Enoch's wife, took care of all the business when Enoch was gone for months at a time. When he died in 1839, she continued to run the business paying taxes, hiring legal help, dispersing proceeds from the shipping business, running the store, and raising the children.

Mary Ann Carroll taught school in the Cranberry Isles. While working, she lived with a local family. During breaks, she returned to the Carroll Homestead in Southwest Harbor. She bought a share in a ship to gain financial independence but the ship was lost.

Hannah Lurvey Gilley, born in Massachusetts in 1782, moved to Mount Desert at age 13. She married William Gilley and had three children. About 1806, they moved to Baker Island and had nine more children. Hannah had a strong education from Massachusetts and taught all 12 children to read, write, and cipher. She died on Little Cranberry Island in 1852.

William Gilley, husband of Hannah, became the first lighthouse keeper on Baker Island. He was given a house, all the sperm whale oil he could burn, and \$350 per year. He lost this appointment when the Whigs took power in 1849. He then moved to Great Duck Island which he had purchased in 1837.

Samuel Hadlock, Sr. lived from 1771 until 1854. He moved to Little Cranberry Island in 1790. He was both a mariner and a merchant and built a ship store on the harbor in the early 19th century.

Samuel Hadlock, Jr., was born on Little Cranberry Island in 1792. He sailed north to the Arctic for whaling and sealing expeditions. In 1821, he recruited a family from a northern tribe to represent an Eskimo family for a traveling exhibition. He toured

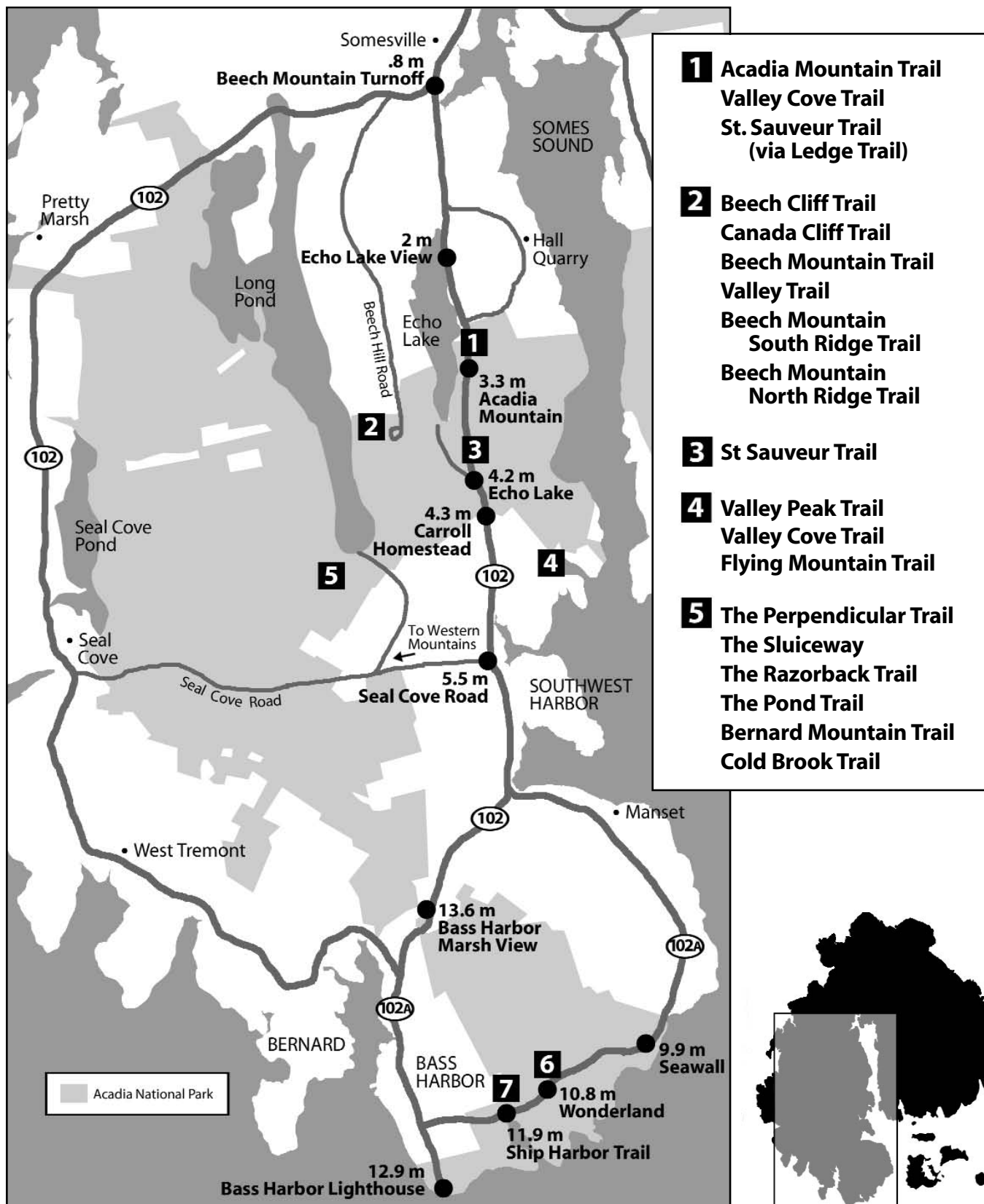
New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore before leaving for Europe. He married **Dorothea Albertina Wilhimina Celeste Russ** from Prussia in 1825. Most island residents called her the Prussian Woman, while Samuel named her Hannah Caroline. Hadlock was lost at sea in a sealing expedition in 1825.

Edwin Hadlock lived from 1814 until 1875. He was the son of Samuel Hadlock Sr., the mariner and merchant who built a ship store on the harbor in the early 19th century. Edwin enlarged the operation around 1850 by building what we now call the Blue Duck.

William Hadlock (1834-1911) served in the Civil War as a colonel in the 28th Maine Regiment. His sword and scabbard are in the museum. He returned home to the family business started by his grandfather.

SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

Chapter Thirteen – Acadia's Western Side





Before You Go – What To Know Acadia’s Western Side Logistics

LOCATION

The sites on the western side of Acadia are accessed by State Route 102 and State Route 102A. Unlike the Park Loop Road, the western side of Acadia does not include a specified scenic drive, although the surrounding area is picturesque.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Details on specific locations and more information can be found in the narrative section.

Echo Lake Swimming Beach

Packed in the summer, this is one of the few island lakes that allow swimming.

The Carroll Homestead Self-guiding Interpretive Trail

The grounds around the “Mountain House,” a homestead dating back to 1825, are open for visitors to explore.

Seawall Picnic Area

Picnic tables, grills, and beautiful ocean views make Seawall an appealing place for picnics or shoreline discoveries.

Wonderland Trail and Ship Harbor Trail

Enjoy the forests and coastline walking either of these trails.

Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse

One of the most photographed lighthouses along the Maine coast.

TIME ALLOTMENT

Estimated driving times are from Somesville where State Route 198 and State Route 102 intersect. Driving times vary depending on traffic, but in general:

- *Echo Lake Beach*: 10 minutes/visit from 20 minutes to all day
- *The Carroll Homestead*: 10 minutes/half hour visit
- *Seawall Picnic Area*: 20 minutes/half hour visit or longer
- *Wonderland Trail*: 25 minutes/30 minute visit or longer
- *Ship Harbor Trail*: 25 minutes/45 minute visit or longer
- *Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse*: 30 minutes/20 minute visit

PARKING

Information about parking at each is located in the Background Information/ Narrative section.

FACILITIES

- *Acadia Mountain Parking*: vault toilet
- *Echo Lake Beach*: changing rooms and flush toilet restroom
- *The Carroll Homestead*: portable toilets
- *Seawall Picnic Area*: picnic tables, grills, and flush toilet restrooms
- *Ship Harbor Nature Trail*: vault toilet
- *Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse*: vault toilet
- *Pretty Marsh Picnic Area*: picnic tables, grills, flush toilet restrooms

ACCESSIBILITY

- *Echo Lake*: There is a steep ramp that leads from the parking lot of Echo Lake to a viewing area on the steps. It does not go all the way to the beach.
- *The Carroll Homestead*: Accessible parking right next to the homestead.
- *Seawall Picnic Area*: Views and picnic tables accessible.
- *Wonderland Trail*: This wide fairly level path does have some roots and rocks but is considered accessible with assistance.
- *Ship Harbor Trail*: Accessible to mud flats.
- *Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse*: Back view of lighthouse available from parking lot. View from ocean not accessible.

SAFETY

- Echo Lake Beach and Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse stairs are steep and can be slippery with sand, gravel, and water. Please use caution.
- Echo Lake parking lot fills by late morning. Please be cautious driving through the lot.
- The roads traveled through the west side are local public roads. Please respect the speed limit in these areas.
- Southwest Harbor's small size has difficulty handling the large amounts of summer traffic. Traffic tie-ups are common in July and August. Please watch for stopping and turning traffic.
- The coast at Seawall is gently sloping, but extremely slippery especially after the tide has just gone out. Wear proper foot wear and tread slowly.

TRAILHEADS AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Acadia Mountain Area

- *Acadia Mountain*
- *Valley Cove Trail*
- *St. Sauveur Mountain Trail*
- *St. Sauveur via Ledge Trail*
- *Valley Peak Trail*

Echo Lake Beach Area

- *Beech Cliff Trail*
- *Canada Cliff Trail*

Beech Mountain Area

- *Beech Mountain Trail*
- *Valley Trail*
- *Beech Mountain South Ridge Trail*
- *Beech Mountain West Ridge Trail*

Seawall Area

- *Wonderland*
- *Ship Harbor*

Western Mountains

- *The Perpendicular Trail*
- *The Shuiceway*
- *The Razorback Trail*
- *Great Pond Trail*
- *Bernard Mountain South Face Trail*
- *Cold Brook Trail*
- *Great Notch Trail*



At a Glance – Acadia's Western Side

SIGNIFICANCE

Although divided by local towns and highways, the west side is considered more quiet, and the inter-related quality of town and park offers visitors traditional Maine village flair with towns like Southwest Harbor and Somesville.

Within these lands Acadia protects unusual plant associations of northern and southern plants, rare peatlands, old growth spruce forests and excellent habitat for more northerly bird species. The historic sites of the Carroll Homestead and Bass Harbor lighthouse preserve a piece of coastal Maine history.

FAST FACTS

- The west side of Acadia harbors more early history than the east side because:
 1. Prehistoric Indian sites unearthed at Fernald Point dating back 3000 years.
 2. French Jesuit encampment believed to be somewhere at the mouth of Somes Sound in 1613.
 3. Somesville, called “Betwixt the Hills,” was the first permanent settlement in 1761.
 4. Southwest Harbor had the first steamship wharf in the early 1800s for welcoming the beginning wave of visitors to Mount Desert Island.
- Acadia Mountain's ridge runs east to west, unlike all of the other mountains in the park that follow the usual glacial formation direction of north-south.
- Acadia Mountain and St. Sauveur's slopes hold an unusual plant association of bear oak and pitch pine. Bear oak, common in mid-Atlantic states, is only found in the park on these two mountains.
- The current Beech Mountain Fire Tower was built in 1962.
- Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse was built in 1858.
- Echo Lake's swimming temperature at 65-70 degrees is much more accommodating to swimmers than that of the ocean.

PROTECT YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP

Remember to follow *Leave No Trace* principles. In particular:

- At Seawall Picnic Area gulls have become accustomed to being fed. Please do not feed wildlife.
- Dispose of your food and trash properly. Garbage cans have receptacles for recyclables—please use them.
- Do not remove beach rocks or construct “rock art.” They, as everything else in the park, are protected. You are welcome to remove litter however.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Park scientists are concerned about the potential decline of park amphibians. Echo Lake is one area being monitored. Any unusual sightings should be reported to a park ranger or call (207) 288-3338.

HELPFUL INFORMATION – ACADIA’S WEST SIDE

Fact Sheets:

Wildlife 3-3

Keeping Wildlife Wild 3-6

Common Loon 3-31

Seabirds 3-32

Amphibians 3-34

Plant Groups of Acadia National Park 3-43

Acadia’s Common Plants 3-50

Life Between the Tides 3-71

Suggestions for a Low Impact Visit 3-76

Intertidal Animals 3-77

Intertidal Plants 3-79

Water Quality 3-88

Portrait of Three 19th Century Families – the Carroll, Hadlocks, and Gilleys 3-116

Appendix:

Birding on Mount Desert Island (B)

Mountains (D)

Lakes and Ponds (D)

Acadia National Park Timeline (E)

Who’s Who at Acadia (E)

Quotes (E)

Carroll Homestead Interpretive Trail (H)



Background Information/Narrative

Acadia's West Side

NOTE: Park highlights are interspersed between local towns and private property. The primary driving routes are State Route 102 and 102A. Mileage distances begin from the intersection of State Route 198 and State Route 102 junction in Somesville at the stop light.

Beech Mountain area access is .8 mile, just after Somesville. Long Pond Road, just after the Somesville firehouse on the right hand side of the road, accesses the road to Beech Mountain and the north end of Long Pond. Beech Hill Road is 2/10 of a mile on the left, Long Pond is 1.7 miles on the left. At the end of Beech Hill Road is the parking area for Beech Mountain, Beech Cliffs, and the Valley Trail. For more information on Beech Mountain, see below. For more information on area hiking trails see Recreation section.

ECHO LAKE

No planned stop.

Location

Mile 2 off State Route 102, on the right hand side.

Parking

None

Echo Lake practically laps right against the highway at this spot. Across the lake at its southern end is Beech Mountain, a mountain with an addition—a fire tower. The summit of Beech Mountain, fairly free of trees and offering views to the Western Mountains as well as the western slopes of Sargent and Cadillac, served as a good vantage point for spotting smoke. The first fire tower was a wooden structure that was built in 1941. By the 1950s it had deteriorated and in 1962 was replaced with the three-story steel lookout. The tower is only used during periods of high fire danger. In 1993, it was registered as a national historic lookout. Occasionally it is open to the public.

IKES POINT

No planned stop.

Location

Mile 3 off State Route 102.

Parking

Small parking lot for boaters and boat trailers.

Ike's Point offers views of Echo Lake, but is primarily used for those putting in canoes, windsurf boards, and motorboats. There is a 10 horsepower limit on motorboats. Swimming is allowed.

ACADIA MOUNTAIN

No planned stop unless hiking.

Location

- *Mile 3.2 on left:* Man O'War Brook Fire Road; off State Route 102
- *Mile 3.3 on right:* Acadia Mountain parking lot; off State Route 102

Parking

There are approximately 20 car spaces right off the highway.

Acadia Mountain's popular hiking trail provides hikers open views of Somes Sound from its east-west running ridge and offers a lesson in Acadia's vegetation variety. Bear oak (or scrub oak), a small oak of three to nine feet with leaves about two to five inches, grows along the mountain's dry ridges. This tree grows predominantly in the southern coastal plains of New Jersey. Patches of this small oak can be found between New Jersey and Acadia, but here, growing in association with pitch pine, it is a combination uncommon anywhere else in Acadia. This is an example of how more southerly species, like the bear oak, co-mingle with more northerly species in the spruce-fir forest of Acadia.

Acadia's plant diversity is botanically significant. The park's geographic location in a transition zone between northern and southern environments coupled with its maritime environment of fog and humidity, cooler growing seasons and warmer winters, sustain a representative range of 2500 miles of typical plants of the arctic, Canadian zone, and southern coastal plain. This remarkable accumulation in one area is a unique feature of Acadia National Park.

ST. SAUVEUR MOUNTAIN

No planned stop unless hiking.

Location

Mile 3.9 on the left hand side of State Route 102.

Parking

Small circular parking lot.

St. Sauveur Mountain, named after the historic French Jesuit colony believed to have been settled at the mouth of Somes Sound in 1613, is more wooded than Acadia Mountain. Views from its summit are not as expansive. St. Sauveur Mountain has a sheer cliff facing east along Somes Sound. This cliff was a historic nesting site of peregrines prior to the extermination of the species in Maine in the early 1960s. Today, they have returned, nesting at this cliff face once again.

ECHO LAKE

To view beach, you must climb down a series of steps.

Location

Mile 4.2 off of State Route 102; access road leads to beach parking.

Parking

A large lot, it is often filled to capacity in July and August.

Echo Lake is a popular swimming spot in the summer. The beach is perhaps a more restful spot other times of the year. A changing area and restrooms are available. Rising above the west side of the lake are the impressive Beech Cliffs, the southeastern face of Beech Mountain. This is another recent location of breeding peregrine falcons, and the Beech Cliffs trail may be closed when the birds are nesting.

Echo Lake's water quality data, including bacterial testing because of the large number of people using the lake, is collected seasonally. One of the biggest environmental concerns facing park managers is to uncover why mass die-offs of frogs in five wetland sites in Acadia have occurred. Investigators are focusing on studies on the various factors of virus, fungus, and parasites that have been identified. In the early 1990s, here at the Echo Lake site, sixth grade students participating in part of Acadia National Park's environmental education program discovered numerous deformed frogs. The reason for this was unclear. If you or anyone in your group notice any odd-looking frogs, please let a park ranger know.

THE CARROLL HOMESTEAD/SELF-GUIDING TRAIL

Stop if interested in taking the self-guiding trail.

Location

Mile 4.3 off of State Route 102 on left.

Parking

There are 5 spaces and one bus space 1/10 of a mile down the dirt road; accessible parking is another 1/10 of a mile down the dirt road.

The homestead today, surrounded by overgrown lilacs and a scattering of old apple trees in an open field, speaks of a different island time. The Carroll Homestead represents a historic snapshot of a coastal Maine family in the 1800s. Built in 1825 at the base of Dog Mountain (St. Sauveur), the Mountain House would be home to four generations of the Carroll family spanning a century of time between 1825-1917. While the land provided sustenance, the occupations of masonry and sea captain held by the Carroll men allowed for an external income. Most of the Carroll women were tied to the homestead, but some of the second generation women worked as teachers or in factories. Modern conveniences and the appeal of living closer to town lured the last generation of Carrolls away from the Mountain House to Southwest Harbor. The home was used as a summer house and rental by the family until 1982, when they donated it to Acadia National Park. The home is not open to the public (except for special events and on certain days in the summer) but the land provides fodder for the imagination to picture a coastal Maine family in the 1800s. A copy of the trail guide is in the appendix.

SEAL COVE ROAD/WESTERN MOUNTAINS

No planned stops unless choosing to hike.

Location

Mile 5.5 Access is off of the Seal Cove Road on the right side of State Route 102.

Parking

Varies—see information in hiking section on trails.

The most remote section of Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island, Mansell and Bernard Mountain's main hiking trails, the southern end of Long Pond, and Seal Cove Pond are accessed from the dirt Seal Cove Road. The road connects Southwest Harbor and the rural community of Seal Cove and Tremont on State Route 102. The road is closed in the winter. For hiking trail information, see Recreation section.

SEAL COVE ROAD

No planned stops.

State Route 102 now enters the town of Southwest Harbor, a very congested area in the summer as vehicles creep through the center of town on the two lane road. After passing through Southwest Harbor, at mile 6.8, turn left onto State Highway 102A. The park boundary is crossed at mile 9.5.

The road now winds over a natural seawall built by the sea. During calm waters, it is hard to imagine that many of the jumbled rocks scattered along the shore were tossed here by the ocean. Looking out to the east, closest to the shore, is the backside of Great Cranberry Island. In the distance are Little and Great Duck Island.

SEAWALL PICNIC AREA/CAMPGROUND

Good location for enjoying shore scenery.

Location

Mile 9.9 on State Route 102A; picnic area is to the left, campground to the right.

Parking

Parking for the picnic area is to the left; a smaller parking area is to the right. Vehicles can park on the edge of the rocks in the area to the right.

Seawall Campground is a first come, first serve campground. It is open from late May until the end of September. Seawall has drive-up and motor home sites as well as some walk-in sites. There are no hook-ups.

Seawall Picnic Area is directly across from the campground. Picnic tables set amidst towering spruce with an ocean view are found here. Some tables are directly on the ocean front with minimal shade. Looking to the east is the backside of Little Cranberry Island, to the south is Little and Great Duck Islands, and to the west is Great Gott.

Here at Seawall the waves roll in, sunlight glowing on the crests. Fog enhances the call of the white-throated sparrow and the smell of rugosa rose and spruce. The coastline is rocky but with a gentle slope to the ocean's edge. At low tide large areas of rockweeds are exposed making it a slippery venture for exploration. A close look at the exposed ledge bedrock here shows no signs of the coarse-grained granite of Acadia's mountains. Instead it is a gray rock composed of fine ash and rock fragments of a volcanic source, deposited over 400 million years ago.

FROM SEAWALL TO WONDERLAND

No planned stops.

The dominant tree along the shoreline is white spruce, a northern tree that prefers a cooler growing season. It is right at home along the cooler coast. A distribution map of white spruce shows its primary range to Acadia's north with a thin fingerlike projection hugging the Maine coast. Other coastal loving plants include bayberry and crowberry.

Seawall's interior is mostly peatland. The maritime influence of fog, low clouds, mist, and rain have contributed over thousands of years to create this unusual Acadian feature. Water and nutrients only come from the atmosphere, except for small pockets near ground water sources called lags.

This coastal raised peatland, (meaning its plateau is raised above its margins) represents a special climatic and ecological region. Primarily a northern feature, this peatland is the southernmost one known. This edge designation can serve as an indicator to potential global climate change if certain species begin to disappear. Edged by black spruce, larch, rhodora, and sphagnum moss, the peatland harbors common species like pitcher plants and sundews as well as rare and endangered plant species. There is no access, as constant footsteps will forever change the drainage patterns of the peatland and could contribute to its destruction.

WONDERLAND TRAIL

No stop unless planning on walking one-mile roundtrip trail.

Location

Mile 10.8 off of State Route 102A on the left.

Parking

Small lot for approximately 8 vehicles.

Both Wonderland and Ship Harbor offer excellent opportunities to learn about Acadia's coastal features. The fairly level and wide Wonderland trail begins in a forested wetland before a slight rise to an open ledge dotted with pitch pine. The sound of waves and a bell buoy signal the proximity of the ocean. As the trail opens to the ocean, a beautiful cobble beach lays to the west. With a high storm ridge composed of 70-80% cobbles, the beach has a remarkable diversity of rock types such as pink granite, light and dark gray volcanics, and striped sedimentary rocks. Many a visitor covet these rocks for a souvenir—but they are protected and not to be removed. One cobble removed with each Acadian visitor would quickly change the beauty of this area.

SHIP HARBOR TRAIL

No stop unless planning on walking the 1.6-mile round trip trail.

Location

Mile 11.9 off of State Route 102A on the left.

Parking

Approximately 20 pull-in spots.

The Ship Harbor trail visits mudflats, spruce forests, shrub-covered ledge, and open coastline. The name Ship Harbor stems from a legend of a British ship that made a strategic move into the harbor at high tide—a mistake when it became mired in the mud at low tide.

The area around Wonderland, Ship Harbor, and Bass Harbor is considered one of the best birding locations in Maine. In this area numerous northern species such as boreal chickadees and gray jays are found. Warblers such as the Blackburnian, parula, black-throated green, yellow rump, and black and white frequent these forests. Red and white-winged crossbills can also be found.

BASS HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE

Walk to see lighthouse.

Location

Mile 12.9 State Route 102 A makes a sharp right; turn to the left and drive to the road's end.

Parking

A small parking lot that accommodates about 20 cars.

A well-known and often photographed lighthouse in the Acadia area, Bass Harbor has lit the way since 1858. Lighthouse duty, in comparison to other lights, was not as isolated. Consider life on Mount Desert Rock, nearly 20 miles out to sea, where even soil was brought out to grow vegetables.

Bass Harbor was automated in 1974 but still serves as a coast guard residence. The light can be seen 13 miles out to sea. A trail leads below the lighthouse for the classic view. Be careful—the trail is steep and rocky, and is slippery when wet.

BASS HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE TO BASS HARBOR MARSH

No planned stops.

The view straight ahead (on Route 102A after Bass Harbor Lighthouse) is toward Mansell and Bernard Mountains. At mile 12.4, a left turn leads to the Swans Island Ferry Terminal in the town of Bass Harbor. It is a passenger and car ferry requiring reservations. Swans Island is the second largest island off the coast of Maine after Mount Desert Island and has a sizeable population.

The harbor here is filled mostly with lobster boats giving visitors a view of what one might imagine when they think of coastal Maine. Across the harbor is the town of Bernard.

At the stop sign at mile 13.4, turn right to continue on State Route 102 back to Southwest Harbor. A turn to the left leads to the small community of Tremont. Continuing on State Route 102 through Tremont eventually leads to the other side of the dirt Seal Cove Road, and on to the other park sites of Seal Cove Pond and Pretty Marsh picnic area, before eventually circling around past Long Pond and the Beech Hill Road, ending back in Somesville. Pretty Marsh Picnic Area is set in a deep spruce woods with a steep drop to the ocean. For a quiet spot, Pretty Marsh is the choice!

BASS HARBOR MARSH

No planned stop, although there is a small pull-off on the right side of the road just after crossing the small bridge.

Location

Mile 13.6 on State Route 102.

Parking

Small gravel pull-out on right hand side of road. (This pull-off is at the beginning of the Hi-O road, a dirt road that leads to the group campground at Seawall.)

Wetlands are increasingly important to protect. Estimates range from 60-80% of America's original wetlands, both freshwater and salt, have been lost. One of the parks most significant wetlands is Bass Harbor Marsh, an estuary filled with salt marsh grasses against a backdrop of the western mountains. Salt marsh grasses are not only tolerant of salt, but can also withstand being covered by water for a portion of the day. Statuesque great blue herons stand amidst the grass waiting to spear small unsuspecting fish that mistake the heron's legs for safe place to hide. Other wading birds can be spotted here as well.

Estuaries are a product of tidal ocean water meeting and mixing with fresh water. Bass Harbor's freshwater source is Marshall Brook, a small stream that runs from the Southwest Harbor area. Concerns about potential pollutants from two local landfills leaching into Bass Harbor Marsh require on-going sampling for water quality. Another threat to this system comes from overboard discharge from the harbor. Excess nutrients from both the landfills and the discharge could cause algal blooms to flourish, potentially choking out other vegetation. An overabundance of decomposing algae reduces dissolved oxygen necessary for aquatic life.

The loop around 102A ends at mile 15, returning back to Southwest Harbor.